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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,219	09/16/2003	Gregory A. Cunningham	4316P2685	2111
23504 7590 05/29/2007 WEISS & MOY PC 4204 NORTH BROWN AVENUE SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251			EXAMINER HOANG, HIEU T	
			ART UNIT 2152	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/29/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/663,219	Applicant(s) CUNNINGHAM ET AL.	
	Examiner Hieu T. Hoang	Art Unit 2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the communication filed on 09/16/2003.
2. Claims 1-8 are pending and presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olewicz et al. (US 6,973,437, hereafter Olewicz), and further in view of Megiddo (US 6,559,863).

5. For claim 1, Olewicz discloses a system for allowing interaction between individuals in an establishment and individuals remote from establishment comprising:

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- a server for transferring graphical and textual data to and from the establishment (fig. 1, col. 5 lines 37-67, central server unit 11 for receiving and transferring data such as customer orders which can be textual and graphical to customers within the restaurant, or reservation and wait time to customers outside the restaurant through a website);
- a plurality of customer terminals located in the establishment and coupled to the server for ordering items in the establishment (col. 5 line 47) and for interacting with others in the establishment (fig. 2, col. 10 lines 12-67, customer terminal or the table unit can interact with others in the restaurant such as a waiter unit, a hostess unit, a manager unit through a central server);
- at least one employee terminals coupled to the server for displaying items ordered by individuals in the establishment (fig. 7B, step 113, a waiter unit receives orders from customer units and then sends to the main computer or server, step 118, display orders to view, also col. 10 lines 12-16); and
- a plurality of establishment video cameras coupled to the server for transmitting graphical images (col. 8 lines 32-35, each customer terminal coupled to a server has a camera).

Olewicz does not disclose interacting with others remote from the establishment.

However, Megiddo discloses the same (fig. 2A, col. 5 lines 28-56, an electronic conference room where individuals can see each others using a camera video and chat in a caption box)

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Olewicz and Megiddo to facilitate an electronic conference where individuals can interact with one another for events such as work meetings or social gatherings such as a cocktail party (Megiddo, abstract)

6. For claim 2, Olewicz-Megiddo discloses the invention substantially as in claim 1. Olewicz-Megiddo further discloses at least one remote computer system coupled to the server via an internet connection for allowing individuals remote from the establishment to interact with individuals in the establishment and at one of the customer terminals (Megiddo, fig. 1A, a client remotely coupled to a server via an internet connection for a conference).

7. For claim 3, Olewicz-Megiddo discloses the invention substantially as in claim 1. Olewicz-Megiddo further discloses each of the plurality of customer terminals comprises: a video display coupled to the server (Olewicz, col. 8 lines 25-30, a display for doing many functions shown in the table on col. 7); and at least one input/output device coupled to the server for entering food/drink orders and for transmitting data to and from other individuals (Olewicz, col. 8 lines 31-32, input devices such as pen stylus, mouse for entering orders such as drink refills, orders are then sent to the central server and then forwarded to appropriate entities such as waiters, col. 10 lines 12-16).

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8. For claim 4, Olewicz-Megiddo discloses the invention substantially as in claim 3.

Olewicz-Megiddo further discloses the customer terminals further comprises a card reading device coupled to the server (Olewicz, col. 8 lines 17-19, a table unit or a customer terminal has a charge card payment unit).

9. For claim 5, Olewicz-Megiddo discloses the invention substantially as in claim 3.

Olewicz-Megiddo further discloses the customer terminals further comprises a video camera at each customer terminal coupled to the server (Olewicz, col. 8 lines 34-35).

10. For claim 6, Olewicz-Megiddo discloses the invention substantially as in claim 2.

Olewicz-Megiddo further discloses the remote computer system comprises: a personal computer having a processor and memory; input/output devices coupled to the personal computer for entering data; a graphical display coupled to the personal computer for displaying data; and an internet connection coupled to the personal computer for connecting the personal computer to the internet (Megiddo, col. 5 lines 7-27, a regular PC with internet connection).

11. For claim 7, Olewicz-Megiddo discloses the invention substantially as in claim 6.

Olewicz-Megiddo further discloses the remote computer system further comprises a web camera coupled to the personal computer for transmitting graphical images from the remote computer system (Megiddo, col. 5 lines 51-56).

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12. For claim 8, Olewicz-Megiddo discloses the invention substantially as in claim 6. Olewicz-Megiddo further discloses the remote computer system further comprises a car reading device coupled to the personal computer (Olewicz, col. 8 lines 17-19, a table unit or a customer terminal has a charge card payment unit, remote clients can use the same system as onsite clients)

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu T. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-1253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., EST.

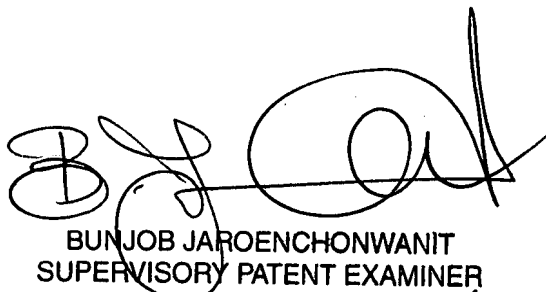
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HA

HH


BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
5/24/07